

OTTERY ST MARY REGENERATION PROJECT GROUP

Meeting held 27th March 2018 @ Council Offices

1 PRESENT: Cllr Josefina Gori (Chair), Cllr Glyn Dobson, Nigel Sadler, Mick Koch, Cllr Eli Pang, Cllr Peter Faithfull, Martin Thurgood, Jeff Abbott, John White (Sec)

2. APOLOGIES: Cllr Ian Holmes, Cllr Anne Edwards

3. PROJECT UPDATES

a) Conservation Area (Nigel Sadler)

i) The new street lighting along Paternoster Rd. is far too bright, and is in sharp contrast to the warmer and softer lighting within the rest of the Conservation Area and town centre.

Action – NS to draft letter for the Chair to send to DCC.

ii) A Planning Application has been submitted for the former Electrical goods shop in Mill Street. Consideration by Town Council on 9th April.

iii) The Business Forum, using Section 106 funding, have produced a “Business Map” of the town. The map has a section on the history of the town which is aimed to inform locals and visitors encouraging them to further explore the town.

It was commented that there is a need for co-ordination between agencies such as the Business Forum, Heritage Society, Coleridge Society, the Regeneration Group, and other relevant organisations, in order to avoid duplication, and to open up the potential for joint funding bids in the future

Action – NS to draft letter for Chair to send to the relevant agencies on this topic.

b) Heritage Centre (Nigel Sadler)

NS expressed concern at lack of engagement by the Heritage Society with the available expertise within the Town and the Region. He hoped that the Society would make a presentation to the Group on its future plans. The meeting expressed the expectation that the Society would report back regularly to the Town Council on its planning and progress concerning the Heritage project. It would also be beneficial if the Council could be briefed by a Museum professional on the full potential of a Heritage Centre within a community such as Ottery St Mary.

Action – i) that the Town Council be requested to invite the South West Museums Federation to attend a meeting to brief the Council on the potential of Heritage Centres within communities. This would be a special meeting rather than forming part of a standard Council meeting. NS to provide contact details. (JW)

ii) That Cllr Dobson seek to arrange a meeting with the Chair of the Heritage Society involving Nigel Sadler in order to try and “clear the air”. (GD)

c) Town Centre Infrastructure (JW)

This initiative has previously been led by Ruud Venneboer.

Further to the meeting with County and District representatives last July, the need is to follow up the projects which were discussed by requesting the two Councils to clarify their level of support.

County Council:

- i) Relocation of bus stops and enhancement of the Square
- ii) Management of traffic flow in Silver St. Options include a weight limit on HGVs, a priority system for Silver St., and a one-way system for Brook St.
- iii) Hind St. – views on the possibility of design work to create a buffer zone for pedestrians on the south side of Hind St.
- iv) Road signage – review of current major signage for through traffic in the town.

District Council

- i) Relocation of bus stops and enhancement of the Square.
- ii) Road signage – rationalization of signage within Ottery St Mary, including the clutter at the bottom of Tip Hill, and improving signage to the Land of Canaan Car Park.

Discussion – include in DCC correspondence the need for a Pedestrian Crossing to be provided in Yonder St. to serve relocation of Post Office to Co-op store.

Action – Seek views of Business Forum on proposals, following which they should be forwarded to the Town Council for approval subsequent to letters being sent to the County and District Councils. (JW)

d) Car Parking

Provision of Off Street Parking for North St.

NS offered to circulate a note he had produced on the number of parking spaces required by residents of North St.

Action – Continue to investigate options

4) LEADERSHIP OF PROJECT SUB-GROUPS

Agreed – to be held over until structure of Group has been reviewed, and that such a review be undertaken in the near future. (JG)

5) HEALTH (EP)

Action - Concern over future of Town hospital to be referred to the Town Council (EP)

6) 106 AGREEMENT FUNDED PROJECTS (JG)

J.G. outlined the concept of a *Cultural Quarter* in Ottery St Mary which would include a *Poets' Corner*, the Coleridge Statue, Library, St Mary's Church, the Monument and Heritage Centre. The *Poets' Corner* project includes an artist designed bench dedicated to Coleridge and an interpretation board. The Cultural Quarter project is seeking the cooperation of the Information Office to conduct guided tours to the different sites which will attract visitors to that part of town.

Further discussion revealed other artists associated with the town, and it is hoped that they could be highlighted in future projects. NS offered to circulate notes on these writers and artists.

7) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 26th April @ 7.30 in the Council Offices